

What is claimed is:

Claim 1. A connecting member for releasably connecting a first part to a second part, the connecting member comprising:

a housing having a first opening and a second opening; and

a first locking member having a first tab and a first button, said first locking member being in said housing such that said first locking member biases said first tab through said first opening and said first button through said second opening, said first tab being releasably connectable to the first part over said housing when said first tab is biased through said first opening, and said first button remaining uncovered by the first part when the first part is releasably connected to said first tab.

Claim 2. The connecting member as in claim 1, wherein said housing forms a part of the first part or the second part.

Claim 3. The connecting member as in claim 1, wherein said first button provides a leverage advantage in overcoming biasing force of said first locking member.

Claim 4. The connecting member as in claim 1, wherein said first button has a height that increases the ease with which said first tab can be disconnected from the first part.

Claim 5. The connecting member as in claim 1, further comprising:

a second locking member having a second tab and a second button, said second locking member being over said housing such that said second locking member biases said second tab through a third opening in said housing, said second tab being releasably connectable to the second part when said second locking member biases said second tab through said third opening, and said second locking member being configured such that pressure on said second button moves said second tab from the second part.

Claim 6. The connecting member as in claim 5, wherein said second locking member has a major axis and a minor axis, said second tab being along said minor axis and said second button being along said major axis.

Claim 7. The connecting member as in claim 5, further comprising one or more retaining rims for maintaining said second locking member in a selected position on said housing.

Claim 8. A connecting member for releasably connecting a first part to a second part, the connecting member comprising:

a housing having a second opening; and

a second locking member having a second tab and a second button, said second locking member being on said housing such that said second locking member biases said second tab through said second opening, said second tab being releasably connectable to the second part in said housing when said second tab is biased through said second opening, and said second locking member being configured such that pressure on said second button moves said second tab from the second part.

Claim 9. The connecting member as in claim 8, wherein said housing forms a part of the first part or the second part.

Claim 10. The connecting member as in claim 8, wherein said second locking member has a major axis and a minor axis, said second tab being along said minor axis and said second button being along said major axis.

Claim 11. The connecting member as in claim 8, further comprising a first retaining rim on said housing for maintaining said second locking member in a selected position.

Claim 12. The connecting member as in claim 11, further comprising a second rim on said housing to maintain said second locking member in said selected position between said first and second retaining rims.

Claim 13. The connecting member as in claim 12, wherein said second retaining rim includes an inwardly depending tab for securing said second retaining rim to a fourth opening in said housing.

Claim 14. The connecting member as in claim 8, further comprising: a first locking member having a first tab and a first button, said first locking member being in said housing such that said first locking member biases said first tab through a first opening and said first button through third opening, said first tab being releasably connectable to the first part when said first locking member biases said first tab through said first opening, and said first button remaining uncovered by the first part when the first part is releasably connected to said first tab.

Claim 15. A releasably connected assembly comprising:  
a first part having an inner diameter and a first opening;

a second part having an outer diameter and a second opening; and

a connecting member having a first end in said inner diameter and a second end over said outer diameter, said connecting member having a first tab biased through said connecting member at said first end into said first opening and a first button biased through said connecting member such that said first button is freely depressible to move said first tab from said first opening, said connecting member having a second tab is biased through said connecting member at said second end into said second opening and a second button for moving said second tab from said second opening.

Claim 16. The assembly as in claim 15, wherein said first part is an implement and said second part is an extension pole.

Claim 17. The assembly as in claim 15, further comprising one or more retaining rims for maintaining said second tab in a selected position.

Claim 18. A method of releasably securing an implement to an extension pole, comprising:

inserting a first end of a connecting member into the implement such that a first tab of said connecting member releasably connects said connecting member to the implement and a first button of said connecting member is freely depressibly to release said first tab from the implement; and

inserting the extension pole in a second end of the connecting member such that a second tab of said connecting member releasably connects said connecting member to the extension pole and a second button of said connecting member can be depressed to release said second tab from the extension pole.

Claim 19. The method as in claim 18, further comprising inserting a first locking member having said first tab and said first button defined thereon in said connecting member before inserting said first end into the implement.

Claim 20. The method as in claim 18, further comprising placing a second locking member having said second tab and said second button defined thereon over said connecting member before covering the extension pole with said second end.